





MIDDLESEX SOUTH FAIR.  
The twenty-fourth annual exhibition of the Middlesex South Agricultural Society was opened Tuesday, Sept. 18, at their grounds in Framingham, under very favorable auspices. An unusually large number of people were present and much interest prevailed. There was a very goodly display of fine stock, horses, cattle, sheep and swine. The poultry show was also very good.

The fruit and vegetable display was quite large and attracted much attention. There was also quite a creditable display of paintings, drawings and needlework.

POLYTHE.

There were fifty cows of foals, comprising Plymouth Rock, Brahma, Leopards, and several other varieties of cattle.

The proprietors of the stock were H. Clark, who had 23 cows; J. M. Conner, C. T. & R. S. Johnson, J. F. Parsons, Rogers & Harrington, South Saltonstall; H. A. Richardson, C. W. Elford,

B. May, W. G. Lewis, B. F. Mansfield, and G. W. Ward of Natick, the last named having 12 cattle.

At the fair there were eight pairs shown by C. E. Homes of West Roxbury, and 10 pairs by C. E. Homes of Natick. I. F. Parsons, W. G. Lewis, B. F. Mansfield and G. W. Ward of Natick, exhibited the jucks, of which all the colts but one contained Peckins. There was but a small display of agricultural implements.

CATTLE.

Mr. Charles H. Hilton of Ashland had a fine lot of Dutch cattle. His 4-year-old bull and two cows were the pick first premium.

W. L. Smith of Southboro', also had a fine show of animals in the shape of Jersey.

John Johnson had several Ayerries, high grade.

J. M. Harrington natives and Ayshires.

J. Stone, half-bred Durhams.

Moses Ellis, Messrs. Hill and Bigelow had a fine show of animals.

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## The Poet's Corner.

## WE CANNOT BE ALONE.

I thought to be alone,  
So left my busy home, with all its life.  
Its joys, its sorrows, its bitter strife,  
And to the woods I strayed one sultry day,  
Where solitude and silence would have swayed.  
Oh, for, I longed for both! No friend or craved  
Nor useless words to speak of sympathy;  
So, in the grand old woods I sought solace,  
Where none could understand me, here,  
One short hour could be known.

I thought to be alone,  
But found the woods evil. Each dead and gloomy,  
All full of bustle as the haunts of men;  
There small insects chirped in perfect glee,  
And leaves kept rustling in each old tree;  
With steps the grasshoppers rubbed loud their  
And wild birds sang, and bees were noisy things.  
"Those woods have too much sound and life," I  
cried,

"To soothe my heart," so left its shadows wide.  
For other results unknown.

I went to the sea, in the bright wide world;

So turned my eyes toward the vast, for safety;

And solemn stillness brood over the spot

Well I knew. But ah! I quite forgot

That ebbing tides never silently,

And dashing waves, the voices of the sea;

And shore, and swell, and calm, and roar,

As madly leaps the surf against the shore.

Where silence is unknown.

Alone? No more I, But with a tearful eyes and drooping head, Resolved earth's busy paths I now would tread.

Without a murmur, I jest, and laugh, and song

No! But I shall fret! I must myself resign.

The world is vast, and I am small,

And strive, by doing good, to drive away

The morbid gloom that solitude would crave

Which God forbids—for feel we gray or grave

We cannot be alone.

Ladies' Department.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman.

DAVID AND I.

BY CORPORAL SQUIR.

Author of "A Trip Southward," "Nautical Sketches," "Corporal Squir on the Farm," etc.

CHAPTER I.

Thirty-one years ago.

But it does not seem so long by half— Not since the first time I was born, in the month of February. Snow was falling, and the northeast wind was driving it fiercely into every crack and crevice. More and more it came, until at last it covered the roar of the tempest through the trees, and the weird sounds it made as it swirled around the house and within.

I was teaching school that winter, but lived with my mother, who was a widow, and owned a little place in the district where taught. A few miles away from us, nor were we on the principal thoroughfare, from a railway station to a large inland town.

We did not sit idle, even though we labored to keep our school open, for we had to depend in many hours upon Mother to make clothes for the neighboring farmers' boys, and sometimes for the farmers' themselves, and sometimes to help her. But the night we sat at home, when suddenly, we were startled by a knock on our door.

It was the outside door, but it opened directly into the room where we sat. We were startled, and I was frightened, for who could be knocking at our door, such a night as that? "Oh, mother," I whispered, "are you to see who was there, 'twere I."

"I am afraid you will think I am a poor farmer's wife," she said, "but I am the snow fell, the wind arose, and within another hour it was blowing fearfully. And gradually, snow piled over everything. When it began to snow, mother said we were going to have the severest storm of the season.

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